Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1752

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR RELEASE SEPT. 2, A. M.

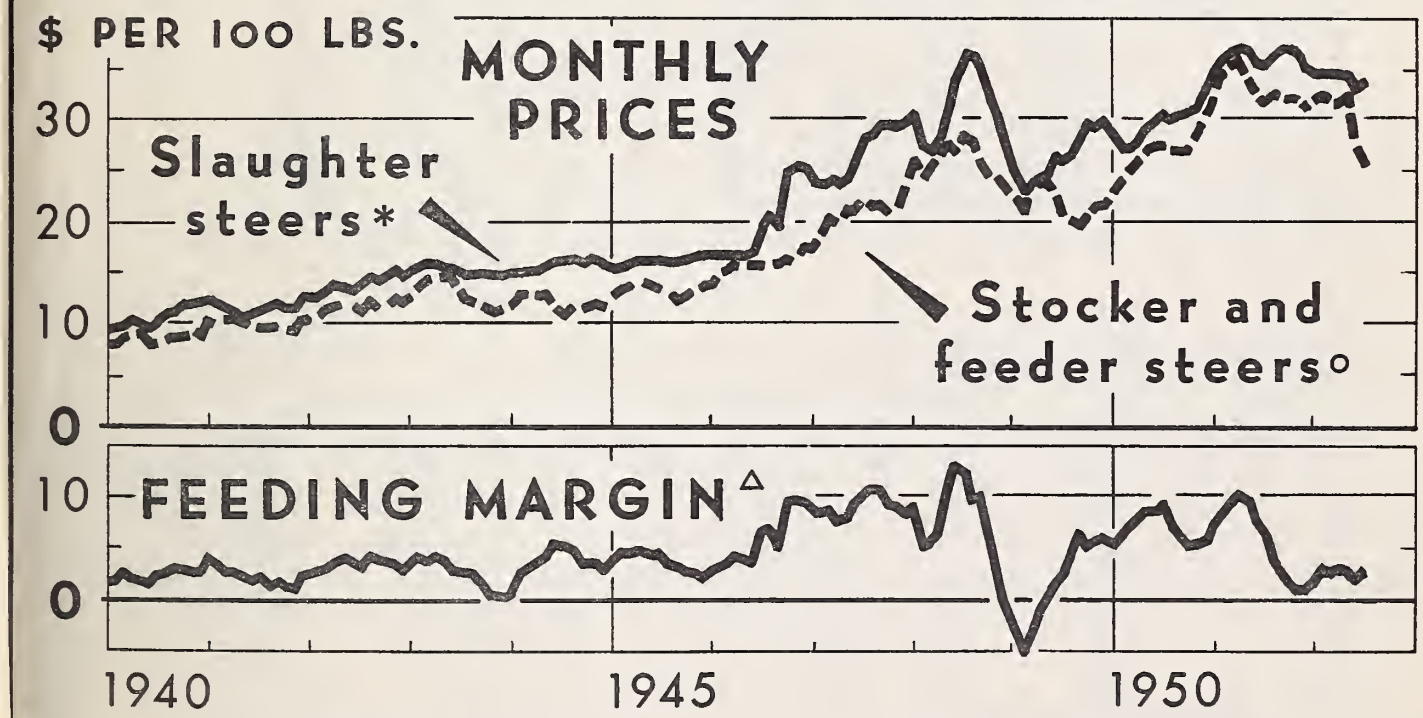
THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LMS-61 BAE JULY-AUG. 1952

In this issue:
Reports of Cattle on Feed

MARKET PRICES AND FEEDING MARGIN FOR CATTLE



* CHOICE GRADE AT CHICAGO ° AVERAGE OF ALL GRADES AT KANSAS CITY
△DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRICES OF SLAUGHTER STEERS AND PRICES OF STOCKERS AND FEEDERS 7 MONTHS EARLIER

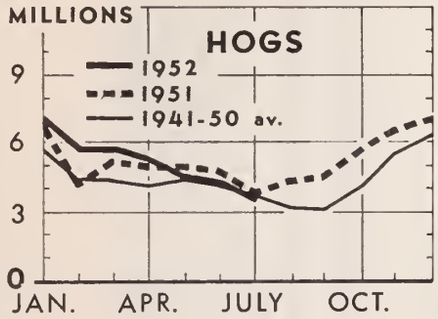
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 47333-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

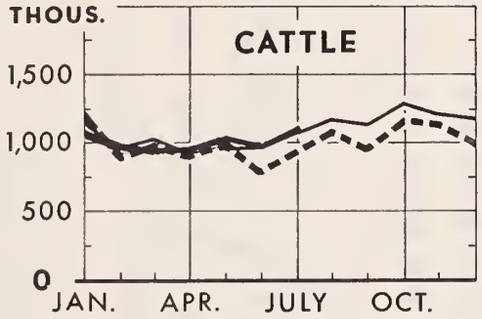
Price margins in cattle feeding have been smaller in the last 12 months than at any time in the previous two years. Price margins are defined as the difference between the prices received for fed cattle sold for slaughter and the prices originally paid for feeders. They are shown here for a 7-months feeding period which is representative of the various feeding programs.

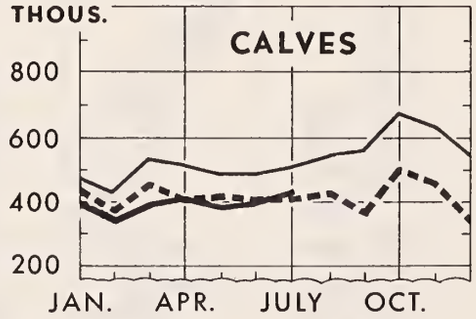
Prices of feeder cattle have declined sharply this summer. Even though the moderate decline expected in prices of slaughter cattle should occur, margins are likely to be wider, and profits about average.

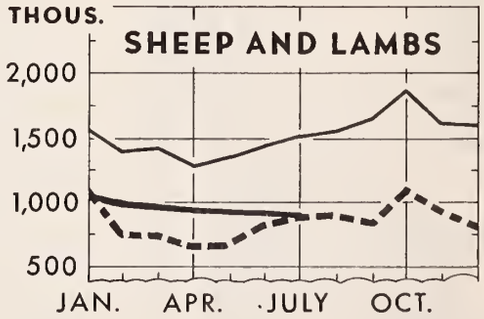
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Federally Inspected Slaughter

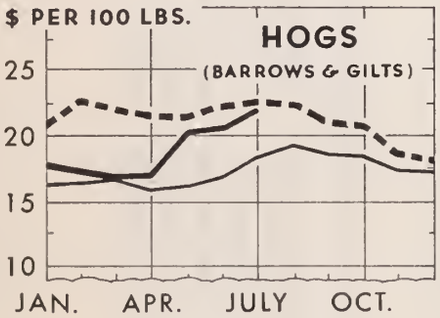


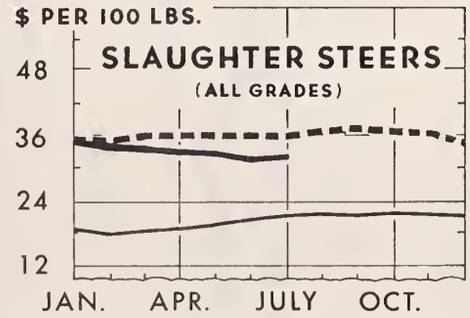


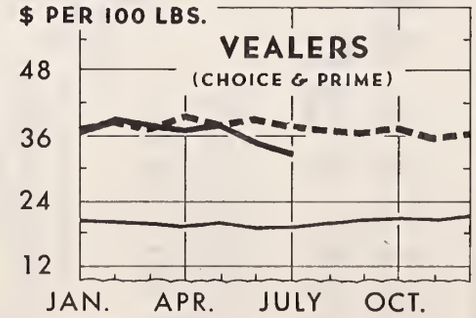


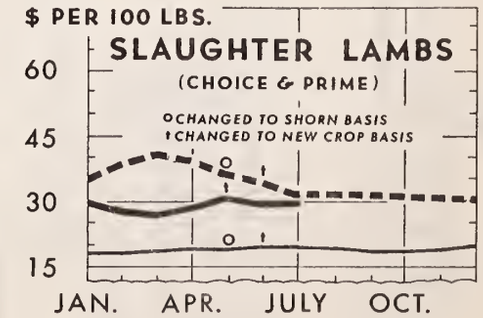


Market Prices, Chicago

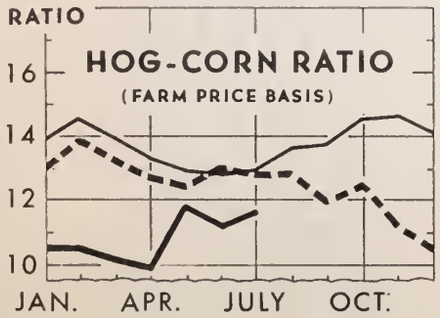


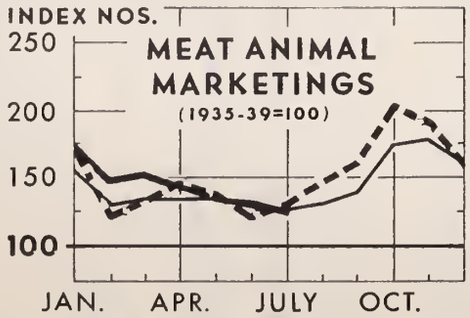


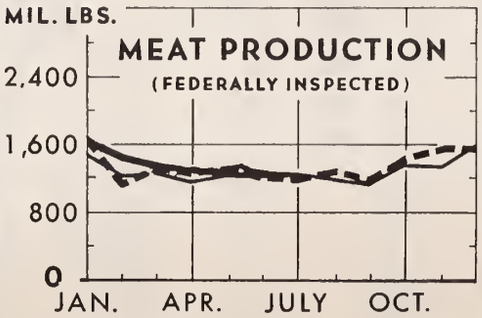


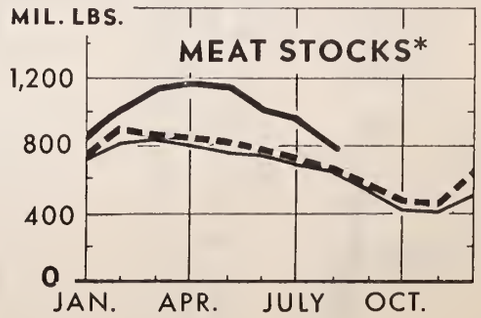


Hog-Corn Ratio, Meat Animal Marketings, Meat Production, & Stocks, United States









*BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 48487-HX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 19, 1952

SUMMARY

An increase in cattle marketings over last year following a rapid rise in production, and a decrease in hog marketings because of smaller pig crops are the chief developments in meat animals this fall. These developments are being intensified to some degree by drought in some States and embargoes on hog marketings in various areas due to disease.

Drought prevailed in June, July and early August in many Southern States, much of New England, the Southern Plains, and scattered areas elsewhere. With rain occurring in some sections and with disaster loans for farmers authorized, there was little selling of cattle breeding herds. However, young stock were sold earlier, at lighter weight, and in greater numbers than they otherwise would have been. Receipts of all cattle and calves at 12 public stockyards the 4 weeks ended August 16 were 14 percent larger than in the same weeks last year. Much of the increase resulted from the greater numbers being raised, but a part was due to drought.

Cattle slaughter in the last month or so has been above last year but not greatly so. Many of the cattle marketed from ranges and pastures have moved as feeders to the Corn Belt, where the biggest corn crop in 4 years is in prospect. The volume of cattle feeding this winter may be the largest on record.

Appearance of the hog disease, vesicular exanthema, led the Federal Government and several State Governments to embargo shipments of hogs and pork in some areas. Marketings of hogs were temporarily reduced in some Western Corn Belt markets. Restrictions have now been eased and will likely not have much further effect on marketings. However, with a big corn crop in prospect, there seems to be a tendency to hold hogs for feeding on new corn where the supply of old corn is small. Total hog marketings and slaughter this fall and winter will be down from a year earlier because the 1952 spring pig crop was 9 percent smaller than the 1951 crop.

Cattle prices have trended lower this summer. Biggest decline has been in feeder cattle, which have been around $7.00 per 100 pounds below last year. The least change has occurred in well finished slaughter cattle. Lower prices for feeder cattle were due chiefly to the sharply expanded supply. But in addition, demand from buyers was weaker because of the decline in price of slaughter cattle and the below-average returns earned by feeders last season. Some firming is possible in prices of feeder cattle but no appreciable increase is expected until after the main marketing season is over.

Because of the lower prices for feeder cattle, profits from feeding this winter may be higher than last winter. This is possible despite the prospects for another reduction in price of slaughter cattle next year and for prices of feed as high or higher than last year. Lower prices of slaughter cattle in months ahead are likely because of increases both in slaughter

of fed cattle and total cattle slaughter. On July 1, 13 percent more cattle were on feed in the Corn Belt than a year earlier. Much of the increase will be sold this fall, probably preventing fed cattle prices from showing their usual seasonal strength. Later in the fall or winter, a delayed seasonal advance might occur. A record volume of cattle feeding this winter would be followed by an increased slaughter of fed cattle and probably by lower prices next year.

Total cattle slaughter is rising as a result of 3 years of expansion in production, and will continue to increase gradually.

Prices of hogs at Chicago in mid-August were a little below the prices of last August. Prices this fall may decline no more than usual for the season. The average price for the season may be about as high or a little higher than last fall.

The 1952 lamb crop was 2 percent larger than the 1951 crop. A reduction of 2 percent in the Western States was more than offset by an increase of 10 percent in the Native (Eastern) States. This year's crop is still small compared with earlier years. Sheep and lamb slaughter in the first half of 1952 was considerably above the previous year, but slaughter this fall is not likely to differ greatly from a year earlier.

If the Mexican border is opened for imports of cattle this fall, prospects are that a few hundred thousand head of steers will enter during the first year. The biggest percentage would go to ranges rather than directly to slaughter.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Seasonal Rise in Livestock Slaughter: More Cattle but Fewer Hogs than Last Year

Seasonal increases are now underway in slaughter of each class of meat animals. As usual, the year's largest slaughter of cattle and sheep is due in early to mid-fall and of hogs in late fall.

Compared with last year, slaughter of cattle will be considerably larger and of hogs smaller. Slaughter of sheep and lambs will show little or no change.

Commercial slaughter of cattle in the first half of this year was 4 percent above the same period last year. Weekly data on slaughter under Federal inspection indicate increases of 10 to 20 percent in July and early August. Cattle slaughter will continue appreciably above last year. Hog slaughter has been less than last year since May and will continue less.

Drought in South, Northeast, and Part of West

Expanding production and numbers of cattle is the major cause for the increase in cattle slaughter over last year. In the 3 years beginning January 1949, the number of cattle on farms rose 11 million head. The number this past January was a record 88 million.

Dry weather in many areas this summer has contributed slightly to the increase in slaughter. Drought has been severe in the South, Northeast, the Southern Plains, and scattered areas elsewhere. On August 1, the average pasture condition for the United States as a whole was the same as 1939 and the lowest since the great droughts of the middle 1930's. During July and early August, emergency drought areas were proclaimed in a number of Southern and New England States and in parts of Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

With disaster loans available in the emergency areas for buying feed and with August rains occurring over much of the South, there has been little selling of breeding stock. However, some young stock have been sold off pasture earlier, at lighter weight and poorer quality, and in greater number than they otherwise would have been.

One reason the dry weather has been a serious problem to cattle producers is that the number of cattle on farms has increased so fast the last few years--probably a good deal faster than the feed supply. This is especially true in the Southeast, where the number is by far the highest on record.

Cattle marketings have increased more than slaughter. While 14 percent more cattle and calves were received at 12 major public stockyards in the 4 weeks ended August 16 than a year earlier, Federally inspected slaughter of cattle and calves combined was up 10 percent. The larger gain in receipts than in slaughter reflects greater movement as stockers and feeders.

Large Corn Crop Indicated in Corn Belt

One reason more cattle and calves are moving as feeders is the large corn crop in prospect. The United States corn crop of 3,136 million bushels in prospect would be 7 percent above last year, but only 4 percent above the average of the last 10 years. The carryover of corn at the beginning of the feeding year will be considerably smaller than a year earlier, and the prospective supply of corn is about the same as in 1951-52. The Corn Belt has had a good growing season, particularly for corn. The crop indicated on August 1 for the North Central States would be 16 percent above last year and the largest since 1948. The crop outside the Corn Belt is below average.

If these favorable prospects for corn are realized, the volume of cattle feeding this winter probably will be a record.

Lower Prices for Feeder Cattle May Permit Average Returns from Feeding

Prices of stocker and feeder cattle are much lower this fall than last. Prices dropped several dollars per 100 pounds in June, recovered only a little, and in mid-August were substantially below a year earlier.

Lower prices are due chiefly to the larger supply of feeder cattle. However, other factors are the declining prices for slaughter cattle--always an influence in the feeder market--and the reluctance of feeders to pay high prices in view of their below-average returns from feeding during the past season. Though some firming is possible, no appreciable increase in feeder prices is likely until the fall marketing season is over.

Feeder prices have declined more than prices of slaughter cattle, and the price spread between the two is wider this fall than last. This is shown by the price comparisons for August of each of the last 3 years given in table 1. Feeder steer prices at Kansas City the first 2 weeks this August were $7.33 per 100 pounds less than last August. Prices of Choice slaughter steers at Chicago were $2.99 dollars lower. The difference between the two prices increased from $3.26 last August to $7.60 this year. This offers more promise of profits for the cattle feeder than did the narrower spread of last year.

The increase in cattle slaughter and the decrease in prices next year seem likely to be moderate. The most reasonable prospect is for a further reduction, but no extreme break, in prices of fed cattle next year. However, it is more difficult to realize good profits when cattle slaughter is on the upswing phase of its cycle, as it is now, than when it is decreasing. This is true because an increase in slaughter is usually accompanied by a corresponding decline in prices between the time cattle are bought as feeders and sold for slaughter.

This longer-range price outlook assumes that consumer demand for meat will continue essentially unchanged. It envisages neither a severe price inflation, which would assure profits to virtually all feeders, nor a deflation, which would result in general losses. Though this is the assumption as to the future, it is true that trends in business conditions and consumers' incomes in past years have had as much or more influence on profits from cattle feeding than have trends in numbers fed and in slaughter.

Table 1.- Comparisons between prices of selected grades of slaughter and feeder steers, month of August, 1948-52

August of	Price of stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City, per 100 lbs. 1/	Price of slaughter steers at Chicago, per 100 pounds			Price comparisons, per 100 pounds	
		Prime	Choice	Average of Good and Commercial	Choice slaughter steers minus stocker and feeder steers	Prime minus Good-Commercial slaughter steers
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1948	27.40	39.48	36.02	29.15	8.62	10.33
1949	20.06	28.01	26.50	23.06	6.44	4.95
1950	26.90	31.37	29.97	28.02	3.07	3.35
1951	32.59	37.92	35.85	31.59	3.26	6.33
1952 2/	25.26	34.26	32.86	28.35	7.60	5.91

1/ Average of all weights and grades.
2/ Average for 2 weeks ending August 14.

Compiled from data from Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

Large Marketings of Fed Cattle this Fall

Through mid-fall substantially more fed cattle apparently will be marketed than a year previously.

On July 1, 13 percent more cattle were on feed in the Corn Belt than on the same date last year. Much of the increase was in long-fed cattle intended for market in early fall. A little later, however, marketings promise to be only a little larger than a year before, unless more short-fed cattle should be marketed than are now expected. A delayed seasonal rise in prices of top grades of cattle might appear at that time. If so, it probably would be followed by a seasonal decline next spring and summer.

Feed Prices Higher in Relation to Cattle Prices

The larger corn crop in prospect will likely result in slightly lower prices of corn in the Corn Belt, although the loan program would prevent a large decline. Prices of hay and of protein supplements are less likely to decrease and could average higher in the coming year. The 1952 hay crop is about 8 percent smaller than the crop of last year, though generally of better quality. Prices of corn and other feed will probably be higher in relation to prices of fed cattle than in the last several years, though not higher than a long-time average relationship. Price comparisons for a standard Corn Belt feed program, for instance, indicate that for the first time in a number of years, fed cattle in each of the last 3 seasons sold for more per pound than the cost of putting on the gain. Profits thus were realized both from the price margin per pound on the fed steer over the cost of the feeder, and from the margin realized over cost of gain. It is quite possible that in the coming season the cost of gain will be as high as the selling price of the fed animal per pound, so that all returns will once again be derived from the price margin between feeder and fed steers.1/

In view of these factors the prospect is that profits from feeding cattle this winter could be better than last winter, provided the reduction expected in prices of slaughter cattle is only moderate. Profits are fairly certain to be below the high returns of 1949-50 and 1950-51. On the whole, prices of feeder stock appear to be down enough that an efficient feeder can feed and sell on a slowly declining fed cattle market and still make an average return.

The following illustrates possible comparisons for the feeding program referred to above. Feeder steers are considered as bought at Kansas City for $25.00 per 100 pounds. Feed costs are assumed to be the same as last year. On this basis, a profit per steer the same as the 10-year average would be realized if the steers sold as Choice grade at Chicago next spring for $30.00 to $31.00 per 100 pounds. Higher slaughter prices would give above-average profits; lower prices, below-average profits.

1/ These comparisons differ, of course, for various types of feeding programs.

Table 2.- Price of Choice grade slaughter steers at Chicago and of stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City, and 7 months lagged margin, by months, 1943 to date

(Data for cover page)

Year and month	Price per 100 pounds: Choice grade slaughter steers, Chicago	Price per 100 pounds: Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	Margin between slaughter steers, and stockers and feeders 7 months previous 2/	Year and month	Price per 100 pounds: Choice grade slaughter steers, Chicago	Price per 100 pounds: Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	Margin between slaughter steers, and stockers and feeders 7 months previous 2/
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1943				1948			
Jan.	15.05	12.67	3.22	Jan.	30.36	26.31	9.25
Feb.	15.53	13.48	4.44	Feb.	27.10	24.15	5.19
Mar.	15.92	14.49	3.87	Mar.	26.92	25.57	5.70
Apr.	15.91	14.58	4.27	Apr.	28.17	26.62	6.52
May	15.59	14.60	3.76	May	30.91	27.80	9.95
June	15.50	14.38	2.88	June	34.85	26.96	13.53
July	15.06	12.48	2.82	July	36.44	28.25	12.85
Aug.	15.29	12.17	2.62	Aug.	36.02	27.40	9.71
Sept.	15.27	11.91	1.79	Sept.	34.49	25.42	10.34
Oct.	14.92	11.36	0.43	Oct.	32.24	24.11	6.67
Nov.	14.93	10.97	0.40	Nov.	30.68	24.52	4.06
Dec.	14.39	11.29	0.29	Dec.	27.82	23.26	0.22
1944				1949			
Jan.	15.00	11.60	0.62	Jan.	24.72	22.15	-2.24
Feb.	15.12	12.95	2.64	Feb.	22.99	21.25	-5.26
Mar.	15.23	13.06	3.06	Mar.	24.19	24.37	-3.21
Apr.	15.33	12.76	3.52	Apr.	24.37	23.66	-1.05
May	15.73	12.84	4.37	May	24.92	24.02	0.51
June	16.23	11.65	5.26	June	26.37	22.53	1.35
July	16.35	10.93	5.06	July	25.96	20.62	2.70
Aug.	16.42	11.50	4.82	Aug.	26.50	20.06	4.35
Sept.	16.26	11.34	3.31	Sept.	28.22	19.74	6.97
Oct.	16.56	11.50	3.50	Oct.	29.63	20.57	5.26
Nov.	16.27	11.96	3.51	Nov.	29.35	21.45	5.89
Dec.	15.62	11.49	2.78	Dec.	29.91	21.44	5.99
1945				1950			
Jan.	15.35	12.40	3.70	Jan.	28.14	22.94	5.61
Feb.	15.42	13.00	4.49	Feb.	27.19	24.13	6.57
Mar.	15.81	13.60	4.31	Mar.	27.33	25.32	7.27
Apr.	16.11	13.30	4.77	Apr.	27.66	25.79	7.32
May	16.13	14.23	4.66	May	29.19	27.19	8.32
June	16.16	13.73	4.20	June	29.99	27.44	8.54
July	16.17	13.54	4.68	July	30.62	27.48	9.18
Aug.	15.98	13.08	3.58	Aug.	29.97	26.90	7.03
Sept.	16.15	12.25	3.15	Sept.	30.32	26.30	6.19
Oct.	16.45	12.62	2.85	Oct.	30.42	26.92	5.10
Nov.	16.56	13.19	2.66	Nov.	31.24	28.46	5.45
Dec.	16.45	13.41	2.22	Dec.	32.98	29.45	5.79
1946				1951			
Jan.	16.51	13.56	2.78	Jan.	34.77	31.88	7.33
Feb.	16.36	14.71	2.82	Feb.	35.98	34.42	8.50
Mar.	16.37	15.22	3.29	Mar.	36.67	35.12	9.77
Apr.	16.46	15.86	4.21	Apr.	36.93	35.64	10.03
May	16.55	15.32	3.93	May	36.52	34.29	9.60
June	16.98	15.72	3.79	June	35.68	32.83	7.22
July	19.36	15.53	6.45	July	35.47	31.61	6.02
Aug.	20.73	15.51	7.17	Aug.	35.35	32.59	3.97
Sept.	19.58	15.99	4.87	Sept.	36.68	31.90	2.26
Oct.	24.97	16.42	9.75	Oct.	36.31	31.97	1.19
Nov.	25.63	16.30	9.77	Nov.	36.09	31.63	0.45
Dec.	25.28	17.63	9.46	Dec.	34.78	30.45	0.49
1947				1952			
Jan.	23.93	17.68	8.21	Jan.	34.68	31.19	1.85
Feb.	23.79	18.96	8.26	Feb.	34.57	32.06	2.96
Mar.	24.05	20.13	8.54	Mar.	34.69	31.99	2.10
Apr.	23.45	19.91	7.46	Apr.	34.76	31.32	2.86
May	24.22	21.33	7.80	May	34.17	32.06	2.20
June	25.72	21.11	9.42	June	32.31	27.21	1.18
July	27.64	21.91	10.01	July	33.03	25.24	2.58
Aug.	28.27	21.22	10.59	Aug. 3/	33.05	25.51	1.86
Sept.	29.43	21.65	10.47	Sept.			
Oct.	29.55	20.96	9.42	Oct.			
Nov.	29.12	21.32	9.21	Nov.			
Dec.	29.62	23.59	8.29	Dec.			

1/ Average for all weights and grades. 2/ Margin between prices of Choice grade slaughter steers at Chicago for current month shown and of stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City 7 months previously. 3/ Average for first 3 weeks.

1937-42 data available in August 1949 issue of this publication.
Market price data compiled from Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

Small Current Premium
for Prime Grade

The price comparisons in table 1 show that the premium for Prime over Choice steers has recently been narrow. In mid-August the premium at Chicago was only $1.51 per 100 pounds. This is not especially encouraging for feeding past the Choice grade.

Premiums over lower grades, on the other hand, are moderately wide. The spread between Prime and the Good-Commercial average (the old Medium grade) has been nearly as wide as last year and wider than in the two previous years. This spread offers promise of about average returns from short-feeding medium-weight, medium-quality cattle to a higher grade.

Hog Slaughter Rising Seasonally but
Smaller than Last Year; Vesicular
Exanthema Disease a Factor

Hog slaughter has been smaller than last year each month since May after exceeding a year earlier in the 4 preceding months. Slaughter is now increasing seasonally but will continue smaller than a year ago. The 1952 spring pig crop, from which hogs are marketed from early fall to mid-winter, was 9 percent smaller than the 1951 crop.

Even though the average date of farrowings was slightly earlier last spring than in the previous spring, marketings did not rise faster in August this year than last. Holding hogs for fattening on new crop corn in some areas where old corn is short has had a delaying effect. Embargoes in a number of States and areas for control of the disease, vesicular exanthema, slowed marketings temporarily in Western Corn Belt States in late July-early August.

On August 1, the Secretary of Agriculture proclaimed a state of emergency in regard to vesicular exanthema. A number of areas where the disease was known to exist were placed under quarantine. No hogs originating in a quarantine area can be moved from one State to another except under permit to an approved establishment for immediate slaughter. Animals or carcasses found to be unfit for food are to be processed for tankage. Carcasses passed as suitable for food are to be processed to destroy any virus present, so it cannot find its way into garbage which may be fed to hogs. Hogs from areas not under quarantine can move into or through stockyards where Bureau of Animal Industry inspection is maintained.

Vesicular exanthema has existed in California, primarily in garbage-fed hogs, for 20 years, but during the past month or so it has spread to 15 more States. The disease apparently does not affect other farm animals, or humans. Mortality among diseased hogs is usually low.

In addition to the Federal embargoes, several States restricted movement of hogs in an effort to avoid spreading the disease or, in some cases, to avoid introducing the infection. By late August, some of the various restrictions had been modified or lifted.

Quarantined areas that are surplus producers have been affected most severely. Receipts of hogs at Sioux City, Kansas City and Omaha markets, among others, were reduced sharply in late July and early August. They increased later.

Seasonal Price Decline Likely

Prices of hogs at most markets at mid-August were only a little below the same time last year. They are expected to decline seasonally until about early December. The reduction will likely be no larger than usual, and prices seem likely to average equal to or little above last fall. Any increase over last year will be less than the 9 percent change in numbers raised. Demand for products of pork, under pressure of a larger beef supply and a weaker market for fats, is not as strong as last year.

Hog production and slaughter are expected to continue at a reduced level until at least the summer of 1953, as a 9 percent smaller fall pig crop was indicated by farmers' intentions on June 1.

Sheep and Lamb Slaughter to be Close to Last Year; Lamb Crop Up 2 Percent

Commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs in the first 6 months of 1952 was 25 percent above the same period of 1951. In July and August, however, slaughter has been about the same as a year earlier. Slaughter this fall is likely to remain close to last fall. The 1952 lamb crop of 18,401,000 is only 2 percent larger than the 1951 crop and only 3 percent above the 1950 low. Although the crop in the Native States was 10 percent larger than in 1951, the crop of the Western sheep States declined 2 percent and was the smallest on record. A 10 percent reduction in lambs in Texas, the leading sheep State, more than offset increases in several other Western States.

The larger lamb crop for the United States and for the Native States was brought about by a larger number of breeding ewes and an increase in the average number of lambs saved per 100 ewes. However, in the Western sheep States the percentage lamb crop was less than in 1951.

U.S.-Mexican Border Due to be Reopened for Cattle

The United States-Mexican border was due to be reopened on September 1 for shipments of cattle into this country. Entry of cattle from Mexico has been banned for nearly 6 years, while the joint U.S.-Mexican program for control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico has been carried on. No new outbreak of the malady has occurred for several months.

According to a report by a special Department of Agriculture mission, a few hundred thousand head of cattle are expected to be exported to the United States in the first 12 months after September 1. Before the border was closed annual average exports were normally 400 to 500 thousand head. The cattle now available for export include a much larger proportion of 2 to 4 year old steers and fewer calves than in previous years. After the first year of renewed movement, however, fewer cattle will be available and the proportion of younger stock will increase.

Most of the steers to come in beginning in September will be in poor flesh and will move to grazing or feeding areas before being slaughtered.

Since January 1, 1951 the United States has permitted cured and pickled beef to enter this country from Mexico. During 1951, imports totaled approximately 43 million pounds. The United States will probably continue to receive pickled and cured and canned beef but at a rate below the 1951 level. After September 1, imports of fresh and frozen meats also will be permitted. However, the bulk of Mexican cattle are not finished sufficiently to produce carcass beef of the grades normally sold in the United States as fresh or frozen. It appears likely that future imports of meat from Mexico will include only small quantities of fresh or frozen beef.

Total Meat Production Running Above 1951

Commercial production of meat in the first half of 1952 was 5 percent larger than a year earlier. (Table 3.) Production of pork was up 5 percent, of beef 5 percent, and of lamb and mutton 26 percent. Meat production in the second half of the year is continuing above a year earlier but the increase is made up almost entirely of beef. Production of pork will be smaller than in the second half of last year, and production of lamb and mutton will be at most only a little larger.

Production is up slightly more than the population and consumption per person is a little larger than last year. Consumption in the first half of the year was 2 pounds or 5 percent above the same half of 1951. (Table 4.) Consumption of all meat for 1952 as a whole is expected to exceed last year's 138 pounds by around 2 pounds.

Retail Prices of Beef Below Last Year

A rise in production of meat has brought some decline in retail prices, and a larger decrease in prices of live animals at the farm. At New York in July, the wholesale price of steer beef was 7 percent less and the retail price was 5 percent less than year earlier. Prices of pork for each month of 1952 to date have been lower than a year before. However, with the supply recently shrinking, retail prices have crept up to very nearly their corresponding 1951 level. The price of lamb is a little above last year.

Prices of beef seem likely to decline in months ahead and to stay below 1951 prices. No great change is indicated for prices of lambs. Prices or pork will probably decrease seasonally this fall, and average a little higher than in corresponding periods last year.

A major reason for the greater decline in prices of live animals from last year than in prices of meat at retail is the lower value for by-products such as hides, pelts and lard. Another reason is the tendency of marketing charges and margins to increase. Within short time periods, marketing margins normally narrow when meat is scarce and prices high, particularly if controls are limiting retail prices. They tend to widen when meat is more plentiful and prices are declining. Margins in the last 2 years have behaved in this manner. Margins for beef and lamb are now wider than last year. Margins for pork were wide last winter but have narrowed more recently as hog slaughter has decreased and prices of some pork cuts have moved up to ceilings.

Table 3.- Commercial meat production, United States, by quarter-year, 1950 to first half 1952

Year	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	Year
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
All meat					
1950	5,115	4,773	4,793	5,682	20,363
1951	5,181	4,699	4,692	5,647	20,219
1952	5,586	4,823			
Beef					
1950	2,231	2,221	2,415	2,381	9,248
1951	2,188	1,965	2,140	2,256	8,549
1952	2,217	2,144			
Veal					
1950	263	277	312	285	1,137
1951	220	216	271	265	972
1952	211	232			
Lamb and mutton					
1950	150	139	149	143	581
1951	131	109	127	141	508
1952	157	145			
Pork excluding lard					
1950	2,471	2,136	1,917	2,873	9,397
1951	2,642	2,409	2,154	2,985	10,190
1952	3,001	2,302			

Table 4.- Meat consumption per person, by quarter-year, 1950 to date

Period	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork 1/	Total
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1950					
Jan.-Mar.	15.6	1.9	1.0	18.4	36.9
Apr.-June	15.5	2.0	1.0	16.4	34.9
July-Sept.	16.2	2.1	1.0	14.9	34.2
Oct.-Dec.	15.7	2.0	0.9	18.9	37.5
Year	63.0	8.0	3.9	68.6	143.5
1951					
Jan.-Mar.	14.5	1.6	0.9	18.2	35.2
Apr.-June	13.2	1.5	.8	17.1	32.6
July-Sept.	14.6	1.8	.8	16.4	33.6
Oct.-Dec.	13.8	1.7	.9	19.8	36.2
Year	56.1	6.6	3.4	71.5	137.6
1952					
Jan.-Mar. 2/	14.3	1.5	1.0	19.5	36.3
Apr.-June 2/	14.4	1.5	1.0	16.8	33.7

1/ Excluding lard. 2/ Preliminary.

Seasonal Increase in Price Ceilings for Pork

Somewhat higher prices for pork have been permitted since July 29 by a temporary increase in ceilings for certain cuts. A seasonal price increase was granted by OPS for ceilings on various pork cuts during the months through October. Ceiling increases range from about 1 cent per pound for pork shoulder at retail to 8 cents on chops, loins and spareribs.

Under Amendment 7 to Ceiling Price Regulation 101, wholesale ceilings of veal hindsaddles were increased and veal foresaddles lowered to widen the spread between these primal cuts. Retail ceilings on such cuts as veal steaks and cutlets were raised, and those on rib chops, shoulder cuts and breast of veal were reduced in line with changes in wholesale ceilings.

Price and Wage Controls Extended 10 Months

The controls that apply to meat animals and meat were continued essentially unchanged by the Defense Production Act Amendments of 1952. Price and wage controls were extended to May 1, 1953 but other sections of the Act, including the provisions on registration of livestock slaughterers, were extended to July 1, 1953. The Amendments in general call for removal of certain restrictions and requirements, and set as an aim the further relaxation of controls.

Under the current provisions of the Act no restriction is to be placed upon the "species, type or grade of livestock killed by any slaughterer". For example, slaughterers who were formerly registered by the Office of Price Stabilization as hog slaughterers can handle slaughter cattle and sheep and lambs as well. The amendment providing for this change also forbids allocation of meat or meat products unless the Secretary of Agriculture certifies that the over-all supply of meat is inadequate to meet civilian or military needs. It is not now so certified.

Price reporting requirements were further lessened by an amendment stating that under certain conditions "no person shall be requested to furnish any report or other information with respect to sales of materials or services at prices which are below ceilings". Required filings to establish or revise ceilings and reports other than prices are presumably not changed by this amendment.

Few Changes in Price Ceilings

Few actual changes in price ceilings were required by the amendments. Some relatively small changes may be made by the provision permitting higher ceiling prices for distributors affiliated with packing houses. The Capehart and Herlong amendments were made specifically applicable to agricultural products, but increases permitted under either of these amendments have to a large degree already been incorporated into price ceilings.

School Lunch Program to Receive Pork

During the rest of this year the school lunch program and other eligible outlets will receive about 26.5 million pounds of smoked pork products purchased by USDA this spring when hog prices were at their lowest point in nearly two years. The purchases, which include smoked skinned ham, smoked regular picnics and smoked bacon, were made for the purpose of diverting temporary burdensome supplies of pork at that time. Total purchases under the program, which was suspended May 20, amounted to about 13.5 million dollars.

Wool Crop Up 2 Percent

Production of shorn wool in 1952 is estimated at 229,750,000 pounds, 2 percent more than last year but except for the previous 3 crops the smallest since 1922. The increase over last year is entirely in the Native States.

Drought in Australia

Drought in Northern Australia this year was extremely severe. According to a report issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, this year's calf crop was a complete loss in much of the Northern Territory and losses of breeding cows have been heavy. Lack of rail transport in some areas and drying up of stock routes have prevented movement of cattle out of the area. Slaughter for domestic consumption and for export has been markedly reduced. The effect of the drought will be felt over the next 5 years.

New Zealand Ships Beef and Lamb to U.S.

New Zealand exports of meat began arriving in the United States in volume during August. The shipments were primarily beef diverted to the United States under an agreement between Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom whereby Canada would supply an equivalent amount of meat to the United Kingdom. This arrangement was agreed upon after entry of cattle, sheep and hogs and fresh or frozen meats from Canada into the United States was prohibited following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Canada in February. In this way Canadian beef which in other years would be sent to the United States will go to Britain, and New Zealand beef otherwise destined for Britain will come to the United States. Approximately 60 million pounds of beef were expected to enter the United States from New Zealand during August and September. The shipments were to be largely frozen steer carcasses, with some cow carcasses and boneless meat included. Since most of these carcasses had already been cut, the Office of Price Stabilization amended its regulation (Amdts. 16 and 17 to CPR 24) to permit the sale of non-standard beef cuts from New Zealand.

Shipments of approximately 8 million pounds of lambs were made during August from New Zealand to the United States but were reshipped to the United Kingdom. Under a separate authorization by the United Kingdom Ministry of Food, approximately 11.2 million pounds of lamb and mutton are authorized for export to North America. Similar authorization was made in 1951 in an attempt to lay a foundation for permanent meat trade with the United States and Canada. However, only token shipments of lamb were made to these countries in 1951.

The shipping of New Zealand meat to the United States in any volume is a striking departure from normal trading practice. The extent of trading with New Zealand in the future will depend largely upon the availability of beef or lamb for export in countries competing for the United States market, and the acceptability to United States consumers. When the United States-Canadian border is again opened, foreign trade in meat is expected to resume its normal pattern. On August 19 the Canadian Minister of Agriculture announced that foot-and-mouth disease had been eradicated in Canada and lifted all bans on interprovincial movements of meat and meat animals. No official announcement had been made by the USDA as to a possible date for resumption of imports to the United States.

New Market Grades Adopted for Barrows and Gilts

Effective September 12 new Federal grade standards will be adopted for slaughter barrows and gilts and for barrow and gilt carcasses. The new grades, which were proposed October 6, 1951 are intended to provide a more accurate way of determining the market value for hogs. The proposed grades are Choice No. 1, Choice No. 2, Choice No. 3, Medium and Cull. All Choice grade hogs and carcasses would yield high quality pork cuts. Choice No. 1 has a relatively high ratio of lean to fat. Choice No. 2 and 3 have lower ratios. Medium and Cull grades are underfinished. (See Livestock and Meat Situation, Nov.-Dec. 1951)

REPORTS OF CATTLE ON FEED

By Arnold V. Nordquist

Head, Division of Livestock and Poultry Statistics

The Agricultural Estimates Branch of BAE issues quarterly reports of numbers of cattle on feed in major areas and, in more detail, on numbers on feed in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. In November it issues a special report on the cattle feeding situation.

Cattle feeding in the United States is a variable enterprise. Feeding programs vary by regions and areas because of different feed resources and different kinds of cattle and calves available for feeding. Moreover, feeding programs change over longer periods of time because of variations in supplies of feed, supplies of feeder cattle and calves, prices of feed and cattle, and alternative opportunities of producing livestock or selling feed grains and concentrates.

Even more diversity appears in individual operations in cattle feeding. They range from a few head as a side line operation to large feed lots operating on a year round basis, handling thousands of cattle and equipped with mechanical devices that permit mass production on an "assembly line" basis. These "beef factories" have lately been receiving more than usual publicity. They have been expanding in recent years, especially in the western half of the country. Nevertheless, the bulk of the cattle and calves fattened for market today in the United States come from the farms and feedlots of operators that each handle about a carload of cattle during the season. Available information indicates that there are in the neighborhood of 300,000 cattle feeders in the country. The average number of cattle and calves placed on feed for market during a feeding season is currently somewhat less than 30 head per cattle feeder.

The level of the country's feeding operations is not tied very closely to trends in cattle raising. In other words, inventories of cattle on feed do not necessarily rise and fall with the cyclical movements in beef cattle numbers. Holding back cattle and calves for building beef herds reduced the current supply available for feeding purposes, but increases the supply of potential feeder cattle. Feed supplies, quality of the corn crop, prospective prices for slaughter cattle, price spreads between feeder and fat cattle and the profitability of feeding in the previous season all help to determine the demand for feeder cattle and help dictate the trends in cattle feeding. Depending on these influences the number of cattle on feed will vary from year to year. A review of the January 1 inventory numbers of cattle on feed shows that the number has ranged from a low of 2.2 million head following the 1934 drought to a high of 5.1 million head in 1952. January 1 numbers on feed during the 1945-50 period ranged between 4.2 and 4.6 million head except for 1948 when the inventory dropped to 3.8 million head.

No official estimates of the number of cattle fed during a season are available for the U. S. as a whole. However, indications are that the number fed during the feeding year has been increasing. This increase has not been entirely reflected by the number on feed January 1 since the January 1 number is a much smaller proportion of the total number of cattle fed for market now than it was ten years ago. Year-around feeding is becoming more common, especially with the larger operators.

Nevertheless, there are marked seasonal changes in numbers put on feed during the year. Feed lots are always filled at a heavy rate during the October-December period. Placements during this quarter are more than double those of any other quarter. The number of cattle going into feed lots declines sharply after January 1 reaching a low point during the April-June period when they are far below the October-December peak.

Following the seasonally large number moving into feed lots during October-December, the January 1 inventory is about the peak for the year. Marketings in the first quarter of the year are somewhat larger than the rate of replacements so that April 1 inventories of cattle on feed are slightly lower than on January 1. Marketings exceed replacements by a substantial margin in April to June and the July inventory drops considerably.

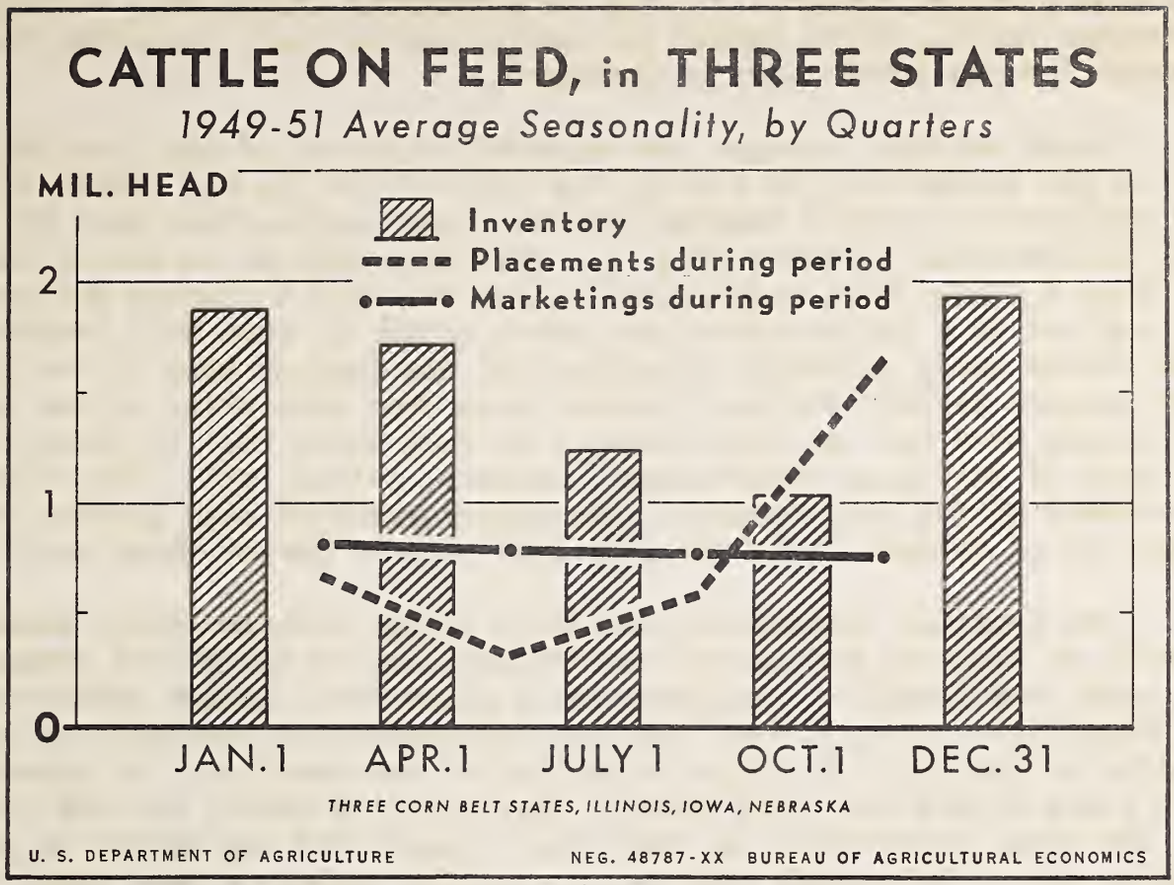


FIGURE 1

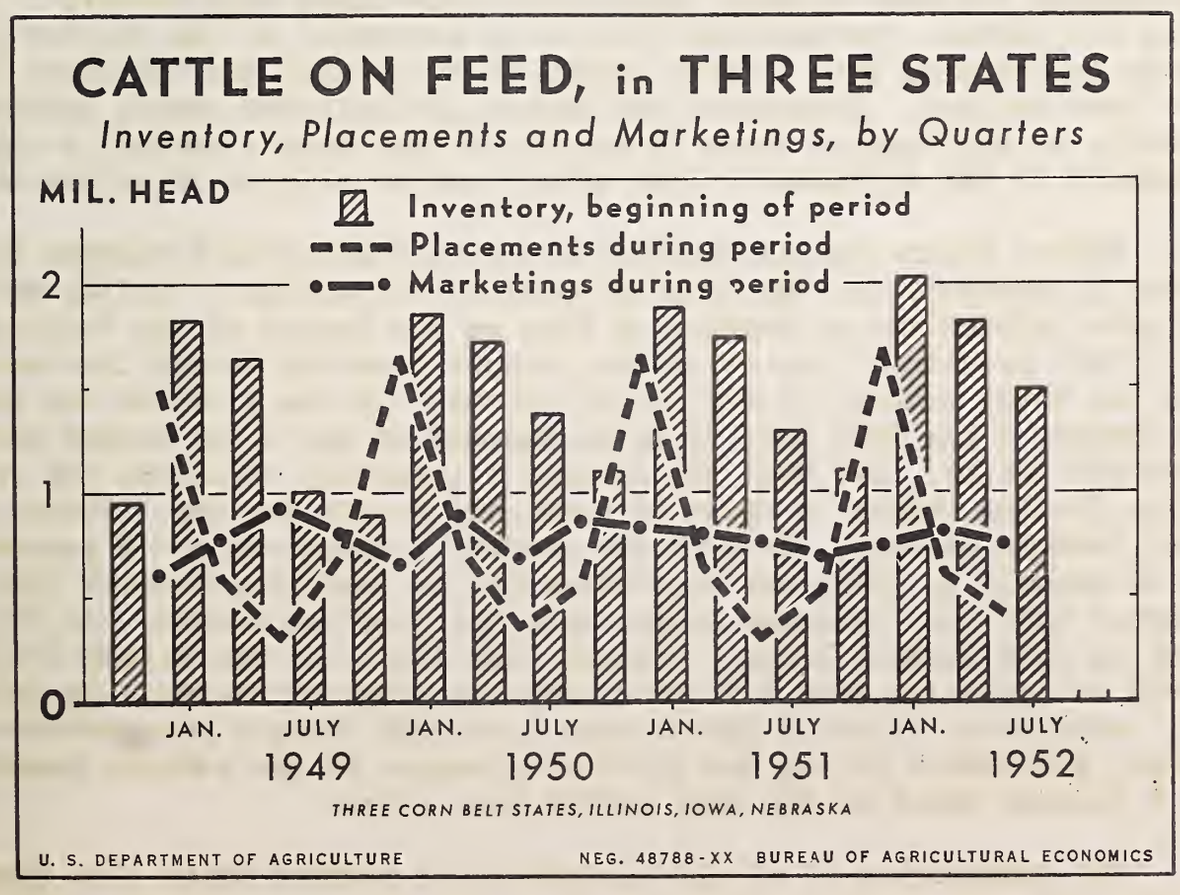


FIGURE 2

Even with a marked seasonal pick-up in placements during July to September, marketings usually still exceed the number put on feed, resulting in a seasonal low for inventories on October 1.

These seasonal changes are especially typical of the Corn Belt. Data on the seasonality in feeding are revealed in the new series of statistics available on cattle feeding for the three leading Corn Belt States--Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska (Fig. 1). Quarterly reports on cattle on feed for these 3 States have been available for the last 4 feeding seasons. They reflect to a large extent the trends in the 11 Corn Belt States, since these States carry on nearly 60 percent of the feeding done in the Corn Belt. These special reports for each quarter also show statistics on the length of time cattle have been on feed, numbers on feed classified by weight groups and kinds of cattle on feed--steers, heifers, calves, etc. They also show the numbers moving into feedlots, the number marketed each quarter and the intentions of farmers as to the time they plan to market these cattle.

The detailed information available in the 3-State report makes it possible to appraise prospective market supplies of the higher grade cattle that come from feedlots. A feeder has a basis for a better understanding of his competitive position when specific information is available on total supplies of the kind of cattle he has in his own feed lot. An operator with 1,200 pound steers that have been on feed over six months is more concerned with the total inventories on feed over 6 months and the number on hand weighing over 1,100 pounds than he is with the number on feed under 3 months or the changes in the number of calves on feed. Total inventories of all kinds of cattle and calves on feed are important in evaluating the longer term outlook. Quarterly figures on inventories make it possible to watch developments far more closely than is the case where only January 1 inventories are known. The detailed statistics available in the quarter reports provide information that is most useful in appraising the immediate and short term outlook. Economists and market analysts are paying special attention to the changes shown in cattle on feed over 3 months, to changes in numbers in the different weight groups and to classes of cattle on feed.

Before these special reports on cattle feeding were started the January 1 inventory was the only estimate of the number of cattle on feed. This gave information on numbers on feed at the height of the feeding season but did not provide a clue as to the changes occuring during the season or on the total number fed during the season. In the 3 States the number on feed January 1 has been only 57 to 61 percent of the total number placed during the season. How well the January 1 inventory reflected the volume for the feeding season is shown by comparing trends for the 3 States in the 3 past feeding seasons. In 1950 the January 1 inventory was 2 percent larger than on January 1, 1949, but the number put on feed from October 1949 to September 1950 was 7 percent larger than the previous season. In 1951 the number on feed January 1 was 2 percent over 1950, but the volume fed in 1950-51 was actually down 5 percent from the previous season. On January 1, 1952, inventories in the 3 States were 7 percent above a year earlier. However, placements during the first nine months of the current season were only 4 percent ahead of the same period last season.

The inventories of cattle on feed as of certain dates also depend on the rate of replacements and the rate of marketings. As the chart (Figure 2) shows there has been no fixed pattern that marketings seem to follow each season.

Marketings do not change much from quarter to quarter. This evenness offsets variations in placements and levels out the supply of beef during the year. Possibly the last 3 feeding seasons do not reflect the usual seasonal movements. The Korean situation, price inflation and price control have had considerable effect on the marketing pattern. The soft corn situation last fall and winter resulted in heavy shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt to utilize damaged corn. This is still a factor in the outlook for marketing fed cattle in the months ahead. Records by months of beef steers for slaughter at 3 markets (Chicago, Omaha and Sioux City), indicate a seasonal peak for better grade cattle occuring during May and a seasonal low in December. If a "normal" is to be selected, perhaps marketings of fed cattle by quarters would most nearly follow the 1948-94 season. It may be of little value to adopt a concept of "normal" in view of the impact of various influences on marketings over the past 4 seasons, and the different conditions and new combinations of factors that will affect the feeding business in the future.

The July 1, 1952 report for the 3 States showed total cattle on feed to be 16 percent above the number on feed a year earlier. On April 1, 1952 numbers were 4 percent above the corresponding date a year earlier. The relative gain in inventories this season resulted from heavy placements between April 1 and June 30, since marketings of fed cattle were about the same as a year ago. The July 1 inventory showed a rather interesting make-up in the length of time cattle were on feed. Reflecting the large placements during the April-June period, the number on feed less than three months was up 43 percent. The number on feed 3 to 6 months was down about 2 percent. The number on feed over 6 months was 28 percent above the number on July 1, 1951. Most of these cattle were put on feed during the October-December period of 1951. However, placements in October-December of the current season were only 2 percent larger than in the corresponding months of the preceding season. The relatively low number of long-fed cattle on feed July 1, 1951, resulted from heavy marketings in advance of a scheduled roll-back in cattle prices.

These statistics on July 1, 1952, inventories pointed to a relatively large increase in marketings of fed cattle during July and August; some tapering off in September and October with marketings not greatly different than for the same months in 1951. Some increases over last year could come later, depending on the volume of short feeding. More indications for the late months will be available in the October 1 report.

The average weight of cattle on feed July 1 indicates the immediate supply of better quality cattle on feed. The number on feed weighing over 1,100 pounds was up 26 percent from a year earlier. The longer feeding season this year again shows up in the 36 percent increase in numbers on feed weighing 900-1,100 pounds. That there were fewer calves fed this season than last shows up in the inventories of lighter weight cattle and in the kinds of cattle on feed.

Table 5.- Cattle on feed in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska: Inventory, placements and marketings, by quarters, October 1948 to date

Quarter	On feed at beginning of quarter				Movement during quarter		On feed at end of quarter
	Length of time previously fed			Total number	Placed on feed	Marketed	
	0-3 months	3-6 months	more than 6 months				
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1948							
Oct.-Dec.	647	166	136	949	1,483	606	1,826
1949							
Jan.-March	1,374	397	55	1,826	583	765	1,644
Apr.-June	527	1,040	77	1,644	286	923	1,006
July-Sept	214	409	383	1,006	698	809	895
Oct.-Dec.	626	133	136	895	1,635	666	1,864
1950							
Jan.-March	1,541	290	33	1,864	744	881	1,727
Apr.-June	667	994	66	1,727	347	686	1,388
July-Sept	289	614	485	1,388	536	844	1,080
Oct.-Dec.	496	240	344	1,080	1,641	827	1,894
1951							
Jan.-March	1,555	286	53	1,894	648	796	1,746
Apr.-June	578	1,119	49	1,746	289	751	1,284
July-Sept	245	644	395	1,284	522	684	1/1,102
Oct.-Dec.	493	262	347	1,102	1,668	741	2,029
1952							
Jan.-March	1,602	346	81	2,029	604	810	1,823
Apr.-June	565	1,180	78	1,823	407	740	1,490
July-Sept	351	634	505	1,490			
1949-51 Average							
Jan.-March	1,490	324	47	1,861	658	814	1,706
Apr.-June	591	1,051	64	1,706	307	787	1,226
July-Sept	249	556	421	1,226	585	779	1/1,026
Oct.-Dec.	538	212	276	1,026	1,648	745	1,929

1/ Does not balance because of minor revisions to be made in data.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Tables 6 to 10 present revisions of tables carried in the statistical appendixes to this Situation published in February 1951 and 1952.

Table 6.- Retail value of meat consumed compared with disposable personal income, by years, 1940 to date

Year	Average retail price of meat per pound 1/	Retail value of meat consumed per person 2/		Disposable personal income per person 3/		Retail value of meat as percentage of disposable income
		Value	Index number, 1935-39=100	Value	Index number, 1935-39=100	
	Cents	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Percent
1940	22.9	28.40	97.6	569	111.6	5.0
1941	26.8	33.30	114.4	686	134.5	4.9
1942 4/	31.4	37.90	130.2	860	168.6	4.4
1943 4/	31.9	40.80	140.2	963	188.8	4.2
1944 4/	30.2	40.70	139.9	1,055	206.9	3.8
1945 4/	30.3	37.45	128.7	1,073	210.4	3.5
1946 4/	38.3	51.13	175.7	1,117	219.0	4.6
1947	56.1	74.86	257.3	1,169	229.2	6.4
1948	62.5	78.29	269.0	1,277	250.4	6.1
1949	56.8	70.69	242.9	1,248	244.7	5.7
1950	59.3	73.73	253.4	1,347	264.1	5.5
1951	65.9	78.89	271.1	1,450	284.3	5.4

1/ Weighted average of retail prices for all important cuts. Note that this weights the price for each meat in each year by the quantity consumed in that year, and that lard is excluded.
2/ Computed from estimated retail weight of each meat consumed per civilian consumer.
3/ Computed from income date of U. S. Department of Commerce, 1929-51.
4/ Data affected by wartime controls.
See The Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1950 for earlier data.

Table 7 .- Number of cattle and calves on farms, calf crop and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States, 1930 to date 1/

Year	On hand, January 1: All cattle	On hand, January 1: All cows 2 years and over	Calves born: Percentage of cows 2 years and over	Calves born: Number	Inshipments 2/	Marketings 3/: Cattle	Marketings 3/: Calves	Farm slaughter: Cattle	Farm slaughter: Calves	Deaths: Cattle	Deaths: Calves	Live weight of farm production
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1930	61,003	32,194	78	25,087	5,145	15,232	8,662	487	677	1,203	1,944	13,263
1931	63,030	33,629	77	26,056	4,729	15,021	8,475	520	755	1,328	1,915	13,386
1932	65,801	35,335	78	27,568	4,499	14,569	8,170	717	792	1,349	1,991	14,232
1933	70,280	37,282	78	28,935	4,978	15,928	8,852	790	842	1,372	2,040	15,405
1934 4/	74,369	39,609	76	30,240	4,419	23,325	11,450	828	985	1,437	2,157	14,538
1935 4/	68,846	37,233	74	27,473	5,259	19,041	9,363	632	866	1,561	2,268	13,651
1936	67,847	36,244	78	28,201	4,990	19,991	10,029	613	888	1,349	2,070	14,438
1937	66,098	35,331	79	28,033	5,111	18,854	10,298	570	785	1,405	2,081	13,746
1938	65,249	34,598	80	27,787	5,635	18,552	9,560	569	725	1,308	1,928	14,047
1939	66,029	34,587	83	28,879	6,416	18,380	10,076	571	755	1,298	1,935	15,177
1940	68,309	35,616	84	29,886	7,026	18,413	10,365	571	728	1,397	1,992	15,702
1941	71,755	36,819	87	31,868	7,135	18,948	11,001	571	684	1,461	2,118	17,029
1942	76,025	38,891	88	34,388	8,514	20,740	11,787	646	641	1,560	2,349	18,568
1943	81,204	41,118	85	34,797	7,442	21,310	11,177	708	620	1,734	2,560	19,159
1944	85,334	43,225	86	37,040	7,233	23,627	14,323	854	724	1,734	2,772	19,708
1945	85,573	44,226	79	35,155	8,257	27,541	13,222	919	753	1,637	2,678	19,517
1946	82,235	42,929	81	34,643	8,774	26,267	13,026	943	766	1,549	2,547	18,999
1947	80,554	42,330	82	34,703	8,302	26,981	13,893	871	713	1,464	2,466	19,130
1948	77,171	40,625	82	33,125	7,595	23,417	12,607	791	611	1,388	2,247	18,402
1949	76,830	39,781	85	33,748	8,079	22,905	12,627	752	570	1,507	2,333	19,274
1950	77,963	40,596	86	34,846	8,869	22,684	11,975	723	531	1,441	2,299	20,488
1951	82,025	42,118	85	35,622	9,270	22,518	11,250	724	495	1,535	2,333	21,692
1952	88,062	44,015										

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of calf crop, inshipments and on hand beginning of year. 2/ Sum of the interstate shipments and imports of feeding and breeding animals. 3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States. 4/ Includes Government purchases. For data for 1924-29 see The Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1949, page 20. Revises and brings to date table A-5 of the February 1951 issue.

Table 8 -- Number of hogs on farms, pig crops and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States, 1930 to date 1/

Year	On hand January 1	Pigs saved: Spring	Pigs saved: Fall	Inshipments 2/	Marketings 3/	Farm slaughter	Deaths	Live weight of farm production
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1930	55,705	49,332	24,803	477	53,796	13,540	8,146	15,176
1931	54,835	53,984	29,192	1,366	55,972	14,338	9,766	16,541
1932	59,301	51,031	31,494	477	55,844	15,580	8,752	16,368
1933 4/	62,127	53,460	30,740	1,454	65,661	15,244	8,253	16,566
1934	58,621	39,698	17,068	1,237	55,750	15,110	6,698	12,385
1935	39,066	32,884	23,260	481	32,749	13,348	6,619	10,673
1936	42,975	41,422	24,303	639	44,809	14,295	7,152	12,976
1937	43,083	38,525	23,994	367	40,665	13,333	7,446	12,506
1938	44,525	43,289	28,566	516	46,089	13,325	7,470	14,372
1939	50,012	53,238	33,714	637	52,906	13,980	9,550	17,079
1940	61,165	49,584	30,282	607	64,262	14,155	8,868	17,043
1941	54,353	49,368	35,584	741	57,695	12,789	8,955	17,489
1942	60,607	61,093	43,810	600	67,423	12,533	12,273	21,105
1943	73,881	74,223	47,584	771	83,187	14,016	15,515	25,375
1944	83,741	55,754	30,905	658	86,289	13,551	11,845	20,584
1945	59,373	52,216	34,611	464	61,035	13,631	10,692	18,843
1946	61,306	52,191	30,503	464	64,409	13,721	9,544	18,744
1947	56,810	52,199	31,090	497	63,499	12,072	10,435	18,159
1948	54,590	50,468	33,358	459	61,790	11,200	9,628	18,222
1949	56,257	56,969	36,275	541	69,249	10,236	11,705	19,457
1950	58,852	57,935	39,404	580	71,969	9,720	12,230	20,001
1951	62,852	62,007	40,182	755	79,361	9,520	12,962	21,349
1952	63,903	56,607	5/36,500					

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total of marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of pig crop, inshipments, and on hand beginning of year. 2/ Sum of the interstate shipment and imports of feeding and breeding animals. 3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States. 4/ Includes Government purchases. 5/ Indicated by farmers' intentions on June 1 at average size of litters as adjusted for trend. Revises and brings to date table A-6 of the February 1951 issue.

For data for 1924-29 see The Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1949, page 21.

Table 9 :- Number of sheep and lambs on farms, lamb crop and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States 1930 to date 1/

Year	On hand January 1	Lambs saved		Inshipments 2/		Marketings 3/		Farm slaughter		Deaths		Live weight of farm production
		Number	Percent of ewes 1 year and over	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1930	51,565	29,467	85	925	5,886	3,212	24,144	222	252	4,149	2,631	1,965
1931	53,233	31,557	86	837	7,546	4,356	26,862	290	301	4,472	2,990	2,052
1932	53,902	29,986	81	517	5,438	2,943	25,017	338	386	5,467	2,638	1,829
1933	53,054	29,768	80	771	6,184	2,825	25,178	352	414	5,106	2,399	1,860
1934 4/	53,503	30,433	82	887	6,956	7,013	25,079	354	436	4,426	2,663	1,911
1935	51,808	27,813	79	1,018	6,452	4,560	23,796	342	338	4,218	2,701	1,835
1936	51,136	29,762	84	666	6,037	4,627	24,206	305	332	4,373	2,910	1,852
1937	50,848	29,170	84	742	6,564	4,579	24,245	295	303	4,172	2,667	1,932
1938	51,063	30,420	88	862	6,606	4,565	25,767	295	315	3,891	2,770	2,038
1939	51,348	29,913	86	1,107	6,839	4,415	25,459	292	305	3,951	2,678	2,029
1940	52,107	31,082	87	1,060	7,186	4,384	25,846	272	299	3,910	2,804	2,101
1941	53,920	32,610	90	935	7,440	4,231	26,510	292	290	4,191	3,178	2,251
1942	56,213	32,312	86	828	8,020	6,064	28,598	291	287	4,029	2,954	2,313
1943	55,150	30,924	83	639	7,624	7,818	27,505	289	287	4,350	3,306	2,108
1944	50,782	28,642	84	576	6,844	7,362	25,349	279	283	4,095	2,956	1,938
1945	46,520	27,042	86	601	6,994	7,333	24,983	274	297	3,418	2,490	1,912
1946	42,362	24,489	89	737	6,718	6,758	24,088	265	289	3,125	2,283	1,762
1947	37,498	21,858	88	652	5,910	5,224	20,937	229	270	2,845	2,076	1,567
1948	34,337	19,594	85	627	5,486	4,828	18,947	213	261	2,916	1,936	1,383
1949	30,943	18,298	87	721	5,242	3,473	16,784	177	227	2,898	1,819	1,278
1950	29,826	17,905	89	728	5,916	2,627	16,446	177	215	2,558	1,717	1,331
1951	30,635	17,989	88	751	5,712	3,295	15,480	147	196	2,514	1,730	1,349
1952	31,725	18,401	88									

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total of marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of lamb crop, inshipments, and on hand beginning of year. 2/ Sum of the interstate shipments and imports of feeding and breeding animals. 3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States. 4/ Includes Government purchases. For data for 1924-29 see Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1949, page 22.
Revises and brings to date table A-7 of the February 1951 issue.

Table 10.- Live weight of marketings, cash receipts from marketings, and gross income from meat animals, by classes, 1930-51

Year	Live weight of mktgs. 1/			Meat animal mktgs., Index no., 1935-39=100 2/	Cash receipts from marketings 1/ 3/				Gross income 3/ 4/			
	Cattle and calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs		Cattle and calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs	All meat animals	Cattle and calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs	All meat animals
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars
1930	14,653	2,206	12,221	---	1,184	162	1,135	2,481	1,204	163	1,369	2,736
1931	14,438	2,505	12,801	---	838	130	774	1,742	854	132	950	1,936
1932	13,960	2,222	12,505	---	621	93	445	1,159	635	95	557	1,287
1933	15,165	2,226	13,282	---	599	105	524	1,228	614	107	631	1,352
1934	20,350	2,555	11,878	---	813	132	520	1,465	828	134	646	1,608
1935	17,037	2,316	7,330	89	1,062	152	682	1,896	1,084	155	890	2,129
1936	18,318	2,314	9,973	103	1,114	166	991	2,271	1,134	168	1,234	2,536
1937	17,051	2,321	9,146	96	1,239	186	925	2,350	1,261	188	1,161	2,610
1938	17,057	2,460	10,638	102	1,162	157	870	2,189	1,184	159	1,065	2,408
1939	17,385	2,431	12,327	110	1,290	172	810	2,272	1,312	174	981	2,467
1940	17,529	2,448	14,837	120	1,376	180	836	2,392	1,400	182	984	2,566
1941	18,628	2,563	13,765	119	1,705	226	1,302	3,233	1,732	229	1,518	3,479
1942	20,472	2,925	16,300	135	2,263	306	2,198	4,767	2,300	309	2,507	5,116
1943	20,866	3,042	20,748	154	2,562	342	2,929	5,833	2,606	346	3,302	6,254
1944	23,117	2,801	20,825	161	2,604	300	2,800	5,704	2,652	304	3,133	6,089
1945	26,675	2,842	15,494	151	3,318	319	2,263	5,900	3,375	323	2,640	6,338
1946	25,270	2,694	15,984	148	3,761	363	2,917	7,041	3,833	367	3,400	7,600
1947	26,099	2,278	15,722	149	4,967	402	3,926	9,295	5,054	406	4,523	9,983
1948	23,105	2,083	15,280	137	5,285	409	3,660	9,354	5,381	414	4,202	9,997
1949	23,593	1,777	16,747	144	4,849	351	3,125	8,325	4,932	355	3,513	8,800
1950	23,610	1,683	17,230	147	5,677	386	3,184	9,247	5,773	391	3,539	9,703
1951	23,399	1,669	19,052	150	6,937	467	3,904	11,308	7,055	472	4,291	11,818

1/ Excludes interfarm sales. 2/ Index numbers of physical volume of farm marketings. 3/ Does not include Government payments. 4/ Cash receipts plus value of home consumption.

For data for 1924-29 see The Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1949, page 29.

Revises and brings to date table A-16 of the February 1951 issue.

Digest of OPA and NPA Regulations Affecting Meat and Meat Animals

This list supplements those appearing in earlier issues of this Situation. These lists are compiled for their reference value now and in the future. Questions regarding the application of the regulations should be referred to the Agency administering them.

Issued by the Office of Price Stabilization, Economic Stabilization Agency

Regulation	Principal provisions
Delegation of Authority 11 Revision 1 Amendment 1 Issued August 5, 1952 Effective August 5, 1952	Delegates authority to OPS field offices to permit class 2 slaughterers in areas affected by vesicular exanthema to have their hogs slaughtered by class 1 slaughterers.
Distribution Regulation 1 Revision 1 Amendment 2 Issued June 23, 1952 Effective June 23, 1952	Permits registration of new class 2 slaughterers slaughtering only for farmers.
Distribution Regulation 1 Revision 1 Amendment 3 Issued July 21, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Permits all persons registered to slaughter, or have slaughtered, one or more species of livestock to slaughter, or have slaughtered, all species of livestock.
Distribution Regulation 3 Amendment 1 Issued August 14, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Limits the applicability of DR3 to periods of inadequate over-all supply of meats and meat products.
Ceiling Price Regulation 24 Amendment 13 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Provides identical beef ceiling prices for packer-affiliated or independent hotel supply houses. Sets up the same ceiling price for packer-affiliated or independent combination distributors.
Ceiling Price Regulation 24 Amendment 14 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Provides for identical ceiling prices for independent wholesalers and packer-affiliated wholesalers whose affiliation does not amount to an interest or equity of more than 50 percent.
Ceiling Price Regulation 24 Amendment 15 Issued July 11, 1952 Effective July 16, 1952	Eases previous restrictions on wholesale sales of prefabricated cuts of beef, and makes several other changes in the wholesale beef regulation.

Regulation	Principal provisions
Ceiling Price Regulation 24 Amendment 16 Issued August 4, 1952 Effective August 4, 1952	Permits the sale of non-standard beef hindquarters and forequarters imported from New Zealand. Also permits the sale of ungraded New Zealand boneless beef subject to certain conditions.
Ceiling Price Regulation 24 Amendment 17 Issued August 21, 1952 Effective August 21, 1952	Permits the sale of non-standard wholesale cuts of beef imported from New Zealand.
Ceiling Price Regulation 25 Revision 1 Interpretation 4 Issued July 23, 1952 Effective July 23, 1952	Interprets permissable additions in establishing a retail ceiling price of primal beef cuts.
Ceiling Price Regulation 25 Revision 1 Interpretation 5 Issued July 23, 1952 Effective July 23, 1952	Restates that pricing requirements on non-graded or improperly cut beef does not eliminate the requirements of grading and grademarking.
Ceiling Price Regulation 74 Amendment 8 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Revises wholesale pork ceiling prices for packer-affiliated hotel supply houses and combination distributors. (See CPR 24, Amdt. 13.)
Ceiling Price Regulation 74 Amendment 9 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Revises wholesale pork ceilings for certain packer-affiliated wholesalers. (See CPR 24, Amdt. 14.)
Ceiling Price Regulation 74 Amendment 10 Issued July 18, 1952 Effective July 18, 1952	Modifies the limitations on sales of prefabricated cuts, and makes several other changes in the wholesale pork ceilings.
Ceiling Price Regulations 74 Amendment 11 Issued July 29, 1952 Effective July 29, 1952	Authorizes higher seasonal ceiling prices for some lean cuts of pork, and makes a number of technical changes in the regulation.
Ceiling Price Regulation 92 Amendment 7 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Revises wholesale lamb, yearling and mutton ceiling prices for packer-affiliated hotel supply houses and combination distributors. (See CPR 24, Amdt. 13.)

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-July 1951	Jan.-July 1952	1951 July	1952 June	1952 July	1952 August
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter 2/	Dollars per						
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	38.80	36.29	37.37	34.63	34.55	
Choice	do.	36.00	34.10	35.47	32.81	33.03	
Good	do.	33.41	31.41	33.05	30.74	30.45	
Commercial	do.	31.06	28.48	30.00	28.18	27.51	
Utility	do.	28.55	25.69	27.23	25.68	23.53	
All grades	do.	35.38	33.27	35.75	32.22	32.53	
Omaha, all grades	do.	34.05	31.75	34.15	30.48	31.28	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	34.16	31.67	34.58	30.84	31.25	
Cows, Chicago 2/							
Commercial	do.	27.81	24.10	28.50	24.01	22.09	
Utility	do.	24.99	21.83	24.21	21.39	19.95	
Canner and Cutter	do.	21.49	18.90	21.04	18.57	16.76	
Vealers, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	37.75	36.36	37.45	34.95	32.68	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	33.68	30.15	31.61	27.21	25.24	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	29.21	27.26	29.00	26.70	26.00	
Veal calves	do.	32.71	30.94	32.20	30.70	28.80	
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	21.38	18.52	22.21	20.04	21.63	
180-200 pounds	do.	22.14	19.36	23.03	20.95	22.58	
200-220 pounds	do.	22.25	19.42	23.17	20.96	22.63	
220-240 pounds	do.	22.13	19.17	22.90	20.69	22.35	
240-270 pounds	do.	21.83	18.67	22.28	20.11	21.66	
270-300 pounds	do.	21.35	18.11	21.36	19.42	20.80	
All weights	do.	21.80	18.75	22.50	20.41	21.91	
Eight markets 3/	do.	21.53	18.57	22.15	20.33	21.59	
Sows, Chicago	do.	18.96	16.26	18.35	17.37	18.13	
Price received by farmers	do.	20.79	18.16	20.50	19.40	20.00	
Hog-corn price ratio 4/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	12.4	10.2	12.8	11.2	12.1	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	12.9	10.8	12.6	11.2	11.6	
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	19.73	12.58	14.88	9.21	7.87	
Price received by farmers	do.	17.26	12.57	15.70	11.60	10.10	
Lambs							
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	36.54	28.93	31.90	29.25	29.27	
Price received by farmers	do.	32.49	26.37	30.20	25.80	25.50	
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		418	378	414	380	376	
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds 2/	100 pounds	56.08	54.71	56.50	53.49	53.60	
Lamb carcass, Good, 30-40 pounds	do.	56.42	56.85	58.00	58.45	59.62	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	23.64	20.01	23.96	21.01	22.03	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	32.45	27.47	32.89	28.84	30.24	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	26.34	23.24	26.09	24.35	25.38	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	36.93	32.59	36.58	34.14	35.59	
Retail, United States average	Cents						
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	84.6	87.0	84.8	86.3	85.7	
Lamb	do.	76.0	76.7	77.8	76.8	79.8	
Pork, including lard	do.	45.1	40.7	45.4	41.8	41.9	
Index number meat prices (BLS)							
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		118.6	112.9	119.5	112.4	113.1	
Retail (1935-39=100)		271.5	271.9	274.2	275.9	274.1	

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1951.
2/ Grade names as used beginning January 1951.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, and S. St. Paul.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Index of retail meat prices, new weights.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats 1/

Item	Unit	Jan. - July		1951	1952		
		1951	1952	July	June	July	August
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		136	143	128	131	124	
Stocker and feeder shipments to							
8 Corn Belt States	1,000						
Cattle and calves	head	993	1,054	173	152	185	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,069	932	168	133	176	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	6,599	7,022	920	966	1,100	
Calves	do.	2,889	2,737	408	392	430	
Sheep and lambs	do.	5,524	6,718	863	926	908	
Hogs	do.	34,327	36,054	3,826	4,259	3,641	
Percentage sows	Percent	11	10	33	20	29	
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	1,002	1,002	978	988	987	
Calves	do.	189	201	233	225	236	
Sheep and lambs	do.	100	100	93	94	90	
Hogs	do.	250	246	276	255	265	
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	557	560	550	554	550	
Veal, per head	do.	108	115	133	127	133	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	48	48	44	45	43	
Pork, per head 2/	do.	139	136	151	142	145	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	55	55	55	56	55	
Lard, per head	do.	37	37	41	38	39	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	15	15	15	15	15	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	3,656	3,914	503	533	602	
Veal	do.	309	312	54	50	57	
Lamb and mutton	do.	261	319	38	41	39	
Pork 2/	do.	4,737	4,867	577	601	526	
Lard	do.	1,264	1,342	157	160	142	
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered	1,000	9,056	---	1,287	1,316	---	
Cattle	head	4,835	---	665	650	---	
Calves	do.	6,019	---	951	1,032	---	
Sheep and lambs	do.	42,181	---	4,670	5,253	---	
Hogs	do.						
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	4,829	---	676	699	---	
Veal	do.	522	---	86	83	---	
Lamb and mutton	do.	282	---	42	46	---	
Pork 2/	do.	5,737	---	686	727	---	
Lard	do.	1,457	---	179	185	---	
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	do.	---	---	90	213	190	162
Veal	do.	---	---	6	11	12	10
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	---	5	16	15	12
Pork	do.	---	---	572	728	685	547
Total meat and meat products 4/	do.	---	---	778	1,095	1,029	856

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.
2/ Excludes lard.
3/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.
4/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE-LMS-61-8/52-5300
Permit No. 1001

Regulation	Principal provisions
Ceiling Price Regulation 92 Amendment 8 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Revises wholesale lamb, yearling and mutton ceilings for certain packer-affilicated wholesalers. (See CPR 24, Amdt. 14.)
Ceiling Price Regulation 101 Amendment 5 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Revises wholesale veal ceiling prices for packer-affiliated hotel supply houses and combination distributors. (See CPR 24, Amdt. 13.)
Ceiling Price Regulation 101 Amendment 6 Issued July 8, 1952 Effective July 1, 1952	Revises wholesale veal ceiling prices for certain packer-affiliated wholesalers. (See CPR 24, Amdt. 14.)
Ceiling Price Regulation 101 Amendment 7 Issued July 18, 1952 Effective July 23, 1952	Revises wholesale ceiling prices of veal to increase the spread between ceilings on veal hindsaddles and foresaddles, and makes other technical changes.
General Overriding Regulation 4 Revision 1 Amendment 6 Issued August 7, 1952 Effective August 7, 1952	Removes scrap leather from price control.